



# IN TOUCH

with the ministry and people of Living Word

Volume 30, Issue 36

September 12, 2021

## "God Hears the Sighs No One Hears"

Just as parents hear the slightest sighs of their children as if through a megaphone, God hears our own sighs as loud cries.

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### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Please call

Eleanor Galik

708-302-1686

for immediate prayers



Living in the Word...that the Word may live in others.

### Living Word Lutheran Church

16301 South Wolf Road  
Orland Park, IL 60467

708-403-9673

livingwordorland.org  
intouchlwlc@yahoo.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9 am - 2 pm

**\*\* NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**9:00 am Adult study**  
**10:00 am Worship**

### Sigh Translator

Thankfully, our heavenly Father hears our sighs as cries across far greater distances than soccer fields and playgrounds. Thanks to his indwelling Spirit — who is nearer to us than the air we breathe — we have a sigh translator before the throne of God.

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

In the context of this passage, Paul is describing our life in the Spirit while we live on this groaning, broken planet, longing for full adoption as sons. Paul assumes Christians will face suffering in its broad spectrum — from daily inconveniences and exhaustion to unbearable diagnoses and unimaginable tragedy. Sighs, both trivial and tragic, are expected and anticipated; however, they are heard in stereo by a compassionate and caring Savior, who longs to bear the brunt of the weights that fall upon us in this long march to our forever home. J.C. Ryle says, "Fear not because your prayer is stammering, your words feeble, and your language poor. Jesus can understand you."

The unseen and unheard sighs of a tired mother in her laundry room are caught and translated by the Spirit of God. The sighs of refugees forced out of their cultures and nations by violence resound loudly in the ears of our heavenly Father. The sighs of breadwinners weighed down by the burden of providing for their families, the exhausted sighs of single parents, and the labored sighs of the sick and dying are noticed by our God.

### From the Wilderness to the Sea

Even before the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the children of God, he was accustomed to hearing the sighs of his people as cries. In Genesis 21, God heard Hagar and her cast-off son whimpering in the wilderness.

God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is." (Genesis 21:17)

Later, Moses found himself at the helm of an entire nation of escaping people. Just hours after their break from Egypt, Israel stood on the edge of an impassable sea with the strongest army in the known world gaining on them.

With his petrified people looking to him in fear, outwardly Moses does what any great leader would do: he composes himself and calms his people, saying, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today" (Exodus 14:13). Yet inwardly, the heart of Moses must have been sighing in silence to God. Immediately after Moses's charge to Israel, God tells Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward" (Exodus 14:15).

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## This Week at Living Word

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>12</b> 9:00 am Adult Study 10:00 am Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00 am PUSH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 am POW Bible Study Zoom and Living Word	<b>18</b> 2:00 pm Sharon Nelson Memorial Service

## Celebrations This Week

 <b>Sept 17</b> David Merchantz <b>Sept 24</b> Tom DiGrazia		 <b>Sept 3</b> Kyle Motel <b>Sept 18</b> Jennifer Vanderver <b>Sept 23</b> Jesse Meier		 <b>Sept 12</b> Tami & Dan Folgers <b>Sept 19</b> Diana & Paul Motel <b>Sept 19</b> Lisa & Jeff Regan	
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## Stewardship Snapshot

### September 5th

**16 Worshipped, 15 Communed**

**2 Watched DVD's**

**11 Watched Online**

**29 Total**

**Financial Support**

1,035.00 General Fund Deposit

Living Word's budget calls for weekly offerings averaging \$3654 to fund our ministry. Regular, intentional and meaningful contributions from what the Lord provides you helps carry this out.

### Church Contacts

**Pastor Steven Lee**

*intouchlwlc@yahoo.com*

**Ministry Support Coordinator, Diana Motel**

*dianamotel@yahoo.com 708-287-4939*

### Leadership Team

**Neal Hartz** - President 847-344-2410

**Jim McKinney** - Vice President 708-359-8527

**Bill Merchantz** - Treasurer 708-539-6027

**Diana Motel** - Secretary 708-287-4939

### Members at Large

**Pastor John Bucka** 815-931-2961

**Bob Grossart** 708-870-0202

**Paul Huang** 626-551-1446

## "God Hears the Sighs No One Hears"

### Continued from page 1

Regarding this scene, Martin Luther wrote,

Moses has not cried unto the Lord. He trembled so he could hardly talk. His faith was at a low ebb. He saw the people of Israel wedged between the sea and the approaching armies of Pharaoh. How were they to escape? Moses did not know what to say. How then could God say that Moses was crying to him? God hears the groaning heart of Moses and the groans to him sounded like shouts for help. God is quick to catch the sigh of the heart.

### Ten Little Words

Those ten little words have comforted my soul of late: *God is quick to catch the sigh of the heart.* He hears our silent sighs under the heavy mantle of leadership or parenting. He hears our short sighs of loneliness or exhaustion or choking grief that go unnoticed by others, and he seeks to comfort us.

The Spirit is translating those sighs into prayers according to the perfect will of God. May we be comforted to know that our Father hears our slightest sighs as loud cries. He will continue to do so until our sighs of worry or pain or exile are swallowed up by our sighs of relief when we see our Christ face to face in his new heavens and new earth.

## Community Events

**CHICAGOLAND SPEEWAY IN JOLIET** to host the start of the Franklin Graham God Love You Tour. Franklin is the son of the great Billy Graham. This tour will start in Joliet on Sunday, September 19th at 4:00pm and is free to the public. This will be the first of 8 cities Franklin plans to speak and travel to. For more information, there's pamphlets and a schedule on the desk next to the office. Hopefully this will be a huge success for Franklin Graham, we all need to hear the message of how much God loves us.



# FRANKLIN GRAHAM GOD LOVES YOU *Tour*

## Important Information

**UPDATED MASKS REQUIREMENTS:** we will have to require masks now. We would still like to offer communion at the altar and pre-portioned communion for those who wish to stay at their seat. If you go up for communion you can pull your mask down to receive the sacraments. Diana has this posted on Facebook and our website. I have posted the new signs at the door and it will also be in the newsletter. As always for your safety, we still have extra masks and hand sanitizer available in the fellowship as you enter, in case you don't bring one from home. Hopefully, this will be short term, but your safety and health will always be our main concern.

# ATTENTION

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO  
WEAR A FACE MASK  
IN THIS FACILITY  
EVEN IF YOU HAVE  
BEEN VACCINATED**



## Mission of the Month

**MISSION OF THE MONTH** for September, the Mission of the Month will be African Radio Ministries, we will see a short video for their outreach and organization, and I have included some information from their website here.



In January, 2005 African Radio Ministries (ARM) began broadcasting weekly Lutheran worship programs in Africa. We are currently aimed at two regions:  
In **Liberia**, programs are produced and broadcasted from four different counties in four languages: Kissi, Kpelle, Krahn and Loma.  
In **Ethiopia**, programs are produced in the Addis Ababa office then broadcast from South Africa. They are offered in two languages, Amharic and Oromifa. In 2016, there were 51 church plants recorded through ARM listener groups. Listeners may contact the ARM staff at these offices to learn more about what it means to follow Christ.

## Church News

**A NEED FOR YOU AND A NEED FOR CHURCH** As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient (who doesn't love not getting ready in the morning or leaving the home?!), it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consumers either. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. Wherever you are, find a local church where you and your family can be part of community and use your talents to advance the kingdom and reach others. To come alongside one another physically, not just through a screen. While I'm grateful for technology to keep people connected that can't physically come to a facility or need to be away, it's absolutely not like being in the building. Never will be. Yes, church on the sofa is nice. But it'll never be the same as church in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing everyone in church.

**FROM THE TRANSITION TEAM!** The transition team has been very busy the past couple of months. They received a list of names from the district, Donna made all the phone calls to the pastors and had coordinated everyone's schedule. They already had several interviews over the past month or so and their last interview was last week. Since they finished their evaluation of these interviews, they will announce their findings. In the meantime, if you would like to watch any of their sermons on YouTube, here is the list of names and their current church locations: Steve Kass, at Family Faith in Glendale Heights, IL, Scott Roberts at Peace in Seymor, IN, Christopher LaBoube at St. Matthew in Mapleton, IA, Steve Deombeleg at Immanuel in Hillside, IL, Paul Tessaro at St. Paul in Clay Center, KS and Ted Cook at Zion in Pittsburg, KS. They even were able to schedule one last interview with Pastor Zimmerman from Addison, IL.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for Sunday, September 19 immediately following the service, for the vote on the next pastor. Pastor Schauer will be here in attendance for the vote. As before, there will be a separate link that will be emailed to you prior to the meeting. The transition team will be coming forward with their suggestion and evaluations for the next pastor to be called. Online voting will be opened from September 12 after the worship service till 10:00pm on Saturday, September 18th. The people who are in attendance for worship that day will vote during the meeting.

**DEVOTIONAL OF THE WEEK** *Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 (NLT)*

Our only hope is in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Only through Jesus' righteousness can we have the Holy Spirit dwell within us. That's the key difference between people of the Church, and people of the World. People in the church are people who repent of their sins and believe and trust in what Jesus has done for them, not in any good work of their own.

## Zoom Bible Class

**POW (People of the Word) Bible Study** the class will be wrapping up their study on the book of Isaiah within the next week, and for those who wish to continue to meet here, can do so, but we also have the Zoom link feature since Donna has moved to Nevada and anyone wishing to participate via Zoom from home can do so. The starting time will still be the same as always, 9:30am. For those who would like to start off with a new study, they will be starting the study on Parables as of October 8th. The parables study will last till the Advent season, and then for an Advent study they chose to do read "Our Hope Has Come". **Please See Below For Zoom Info for the September 17th bible study:**

The zoom email is [LWLCmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:LWLCmedia@yahoo.com)

Password is Church@1990!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89075196952?pwd=U2t0MmdlOWt0L094TnVLeHI4L01WQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 7519 6952    Passcode: 787719

Join Zoom Meeting—One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89075196952#,,,,\*787719# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



**VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK** hosted a 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony honoring the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. They asked all local churches to simultaneously ring their bells at the time of each plane crash. Pastor Lee spoke at the ceremony as well, since he has first hand experience being at Ground Zero in the days and weeks following the attacks. Hopefully we will have pictures in next week's newsletter to share with you.



**NEVER FORGET**

**9.11**  
Commemoration Ceremony

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 • 10AM**  
**ORLAND PARK ARA PACÉ MEMORIAL**

VILLAGE GREEN • 14700 SOUTH RAVINIA AVENUE • 708.403.5000

Honoring the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

ORLAND PARK VETERANS ORLAND PARK

## Living Word News

**PARKING LOT** will be repaved and restriped sometime next month. It will not effect being able to attend church service as the work will be done on a Friday and only needs 24 hours to set. More information as to when this will happen will be announced once the project gets scheduled. We will be able to see where we are supposed to be parking. LOL.

**PRESCHOOL AND NEA** unfortunately will not open this fall in our church. For preschool it is due to such a low enrollment of students. Hopefully things can turn around and we will be able to have preschool once again in January. We need to keep them in our prayers until then. For NEA, it is because of the mask mandates, loss of 4 students not returning and 3 new ones deciding to go elsewhere and cost effectiveness for Audra, she is also hoping this is only temporary.

**GOD'S GRACE AND COMFORT** to the Sharon Nelson family. Sharon was a former worshipper of Living Word. She had passed away in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 21 surrounded by her family. Her memorial service will be next Saturday, September 18th at 2:00 pm at Living Word. She had only found out that she was suffering from cancer just a few months ago. She is survived by her 4 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

## 9-12-21 Message Outline

### "He Hears"

Psalm 116 says: *"I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy."* The Lord hears our cry...

#### 1) "Lord, give me a WELL-INSTRUCTED tongue."

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. Isaiah 50:4

#### 2) "Lord, give me a TAMED tongue."

<sup>8</sup> No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. James 3:8-10

#### 3) "Lord, give me a PRAYING tongue."

<sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd [said], "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." <sup>19</sup> "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." <sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup> "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." <sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. <sup>28</sup> After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" <sup>29</sup> He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Mark 9:17-29

